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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Oltha Airfield

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1. The airfield is on a plateau, about 2 km north of Okha (53°35'N/42°56'E), Sakhalin Island. The terrain of the field slopes slightly to the north. The area east of the field is very hilly and partially wooded and is crossed by many ravines. The landing field is about 700x1,000 to 1,200 meters. Runways could not be identified as the snow was packed on the landing field. There were no hangars. A large, one-story stone building, the civilian administration building, was on the southern edge of the field. Filling installations, ammunition or spare parts dumps were not seen.

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2. On [redacted] 1950 the field was occupied by 16 single-engine fighters, low-wing monoplanes with in-line engine and retractable landing gear; three biplanes; and three to four commercial planes. Description of the commercial aircraft: Two radial engines, three-bladed propeller, midwing monoplane, single rudder assembly, eight windows on each side of fuselage, one door on left side of fuselage, tail wheel. The pilot's cabin, about 1.7x2x2½ meters, had plexiglass top and sides. The pilot's seat was in front on the left, the radio operator behind it on the right. The passenger cabin was about 2x9x1.7 meters and held 22 persons. The plane [redacted] [redacted] had only 16 seats, as some seats had been removed. A lavatory, about 1x1.2 meters, was behind the passenger cabin. The crew was made up of three civilians. The aircraft were painted dark green and had the letters CCCP and a four to six digit number under the wings.

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2. Every day when the weather was suitable up to six fighters were simultaneously seen in the air, flying individually and doing acrobatics. A daily average of three or four commercial planes coming from the west landed at the field and took off again toward the west.

Attachment: Sketch of Okha airfield.

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